

AQUACULTURE: What are the challenges for the future in France?



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MARINA Project

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Aquaculture

The EU's "Blue Growth" strategy identifies aquaculture as a sector which could boost economic growth, meet market demands, and ensure food security while also bringing social benefits through new jobs. To reach this objective, aquaculture must expand sustainably.

France is the second producer of aquaculture products in the EU, but the production has been decreasing for the last 15 years. The diversity of French coasts should allow a development of sustainable aquaculture. This industry is facing many challenges to stay competitive, offer new economic resources and jobs while improving environmental impact and increasing resilience to environmental disruption.

24 participants from different stakeholder groups expressed their opinion in this participative workshop:



Responsible Research and Innovation

Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) engages and brings together all stakeholders, creates dialogue and facilitates knowledge-sharing. It ensures the sustainable use of natural resources and makes sure that the needs of citizens and society are integrated into research and innovation. Participants put forth proposals of collective solutions based on the six RRI dimensions:



Workshop Outcomes

Participants suggested solutions to sustainable aquaculture from five perspectives: social, economic, environmental, cultural and political/legislative. They also assigned RRI dimensions to each action. Each RRI dimension was represented, which confirms that they are complementary in bringing sustainable change. In addition, participants identified “environmental stewardship” as another dimension prominent in their proposals. They defined it as “Mitigating environmental impacts and operating in an environmentally friendly way”.

Economic Challenge



- Promote circular aquaculture or AMI
- Enhance fishery co-products

Cultural Challenge



- Build capacity
- Research on aquaculture products
- Promote social and ecological production ethics
- Promote aquaculture production modes that do not impact the marine environment

Social Challenge



- Strengthen the link between researchers, professionals and government
- Involve citizens through their purchasing power
- Respectful and sound practices
- Identify and promote good practice

Environmental Challenge



- Waste management
- Become a responsible consumer
- Produce while respecting the conditions of natural environment
- Develop innovative pilot tools for aquaponics and integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA)

Political & Legislative Challenge



- Bring in more transparency to aquaculture products
- Develop methods of dialogue, spatial planning and governance tools
- Adapt regulations to the reality on the ground

The MARINA Project is funded by the EU Programme Horizon 2020. 14 partners across Europe are joining forces for a period of 36 months to bring together stakeholders around marine issues and societal challenges and propose RRI driven roadmaps of actions to respond to them.

45 workshops on marine issues in the European Union



-  Marine biotechnologies
-  Climate change
-  Deep-sea mining
-  Tourism and coastal cities
-  Renewable energy
-  Fishing and aquaculture
-  Sea transportation
-  Pollution caused by human, land and sea pressures

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